



...AND AS A REWARD WE ARE MAKING YOU CHIEF OF THE NUT GRINDERS AND POLISHERS...AT THE SAME PAY, OF COURSE...

## Canada Cuts Personal Taxes; Congress Looks Other Way

Although U. S. workers right now have little prospect of any real cuts on their heavy tax burdens, Canadians last week were celebrating an 11% reduction on personal income levies to go into effect on July 1, and the removal of a number of other taxes which had been plaguing them.

The Canadian tax cut was voted by Parliament after it was told that the tax reduction would save the Canadian people about \$250-million in the next 18 months. That's about the equivalent of a tax saving of \$3 1/2 to \$4-billion in the U. S.

In addition to the direct tax cut, Canadian workers will benefit from an increase in the income levy exemptions from \$600 to \$750 per dependent each year, and in removal or reduction of excise taxes on such items as radio and TV sets, cigarettes and production materials.

The Canadian tax reduction bill bore many resemblances to that introduced in Washington by Rep. Daniel Reed of Jamestown, N. Y. However, the Reed bill is held up in committee and observers see little likelihood of it ever coming to a vote.

Reed's bill was introduced partially as the result of pressure from UE locals in his district. To counter it, big business lobbyists have been pressing for some sort of sales tax scheme which, if voted, would take back \$2 for every \$1 saved by the worker on income taxes.

Right now the odds are that all tax changes for the working people will be allowed to die in committee, and that the only ones to

get 1953 tax relief will be executives of war profit-swollen corporations. This relief will come when Congress allows the present excess profits tax to die on June 30.

*Every day in the shops, stewards and other active union members are approached by some of their fellow workers and asked questions about our union, UE. Some of these questions keep popping up over and over again. For this reason, the EU News has decided to launch this new feature in which some of the most common inquiries are put down, together with what we feel are honest and complete replies.*

**Question:** Didn't an important official of the Department of Justice admit that there was no evidence that UE officers had sworn falsely to non-Communist affidavits?

**Answer:** Yes. On March 7, 1952, J. M. McInerney, Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, appeared before the subcommittee of the United States Senate appropriations committee and answered questions by Sen. McCarthy as follows (text from the Congressional Record):

Sen. McCarthy: You have cases,

## Attendance Remains High In 301 Stewards' School

UE Local 301's stewards' school completed its 2nd full week yesterday with attendance at the sessions continuing at the high level set last week. The committee men and women each attended one class at which a full discussion of the UE-GE contract was held.

In addition to the review of the basic provisions of the contract, the stewards were briefed on their role in enforcing it, and on such key points of union policy as the fight on discrimination and the maintenance of an effective, militant grievance machinery.

Attending classes this week were stewards under Executive Board Members Fay Hildreth, Henry Kaminski, Lloyd Perue, Edward La Bombard, Elroy Marine and Allen Townsend.

One important change was announced in the future schedule of classes, which still have 2 more weeks to run. Shop stewards under William Stewart and Anthony Villano, who had been slated to meet on Tuesday evening, March 17, will meet instead on Tuesday evening, March 24, one week later. However, Turbine 2nd shift stewards are still scheduled for their class on Tuesday afternoon, March 17.

Next week's program of classes sees the 1st session for 2nd shift stewards. All committee men and women on that shift, except those

### Class Schedule

The stewards under the following board members are slated for classes next week at these times:

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.—Miles Moon and Vincent DiLorenzo.

Wednesday, March 11, 1:00 p.m.—All 2nd shift stewards except those in Turbine.

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.—Manuel Fernandez, Webster Bathrick and Paul Rosa.

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.—Paul Landolfo, Adam Griffith, Albert Pepicelli and Howard McClean.

in Turbine, will get together on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

The stewards' classes are intended to acquaint new shop representatives with their duties, and to refresh old stewards on their jobs. Each session is arranged so that the participants have the opportunity to ask questions and bring up particular problems in their shops.

Classes are being conducted by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and by his assistants. They are held in the executive board room at the back of the union hall.

## Question and Answer Corner

have you not, in which the FBI has furnished proof of Communist Party membership prior to the signing of the non-Communist oath, and Communist Party membership subsequent to the signing of the oath?

Mr. McInerney: No, sir. Sen. McCarthy: Are you sure of that?

Mr. McInerney: We process these cases at least four times. We have sent them out to the United States attorneys to institute grand jury proceedings on them if they can develop proof.

Sen. McCarthy: How about some of the UEW men who have been denounced by both labor and management as tools of the Communist Party whom you have found and have signed the Communist affidavits? You find that they attend international meetings after they have signed the affidavit.

I do not mean to take up the time of the committee.

Sen. McCarraan: That is all right.

Sen. McCarthy: You find that they attend meetings of the International?

Mr. McInerney: The International?

Sen. McCarthy: The international organizations of the Communist Party. Do you not have those cases?

Mr. McInerney: No, sir. I have looked at the UEW cases myself, and I recall statements in the FBI reports which are unusual in FBI reports such as "No evidence of Communist Party activities since execution of the non-Communist oath."

In other words, despite the best efforts of the country's 2 champion frameup artists, McCarthy and McCarraan, all efforts to prove anything against UE leadership has failed. That's why the big corporation agents in government are now looking for new ways to attack our union.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

Vol. 11 — No. 11

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, March 13, 1953



Toronto—UE's District 5 council voted full mobilization of the union's 27,000 members in Canada behind the contract negotiations fight of 15,000 workers in the country's 4 major electrical chains, GE, Westinghouse, Canada Wire and Cable and Ferranti Electric. The council also launched a campaign to gain united action with other unions in the Canadian industry.

Washington—President Joseph Beirne of the CIO communications workers announced that his union would devote its attention to the "absolute need" of more than 300,000 Bell Telephone workers for a substantial wage increase this year. The union has already served contract termination notices on Bell affiliates employing 80,000 men and women.

New Haven—Bills to increase workmen's compensation benefits in Connecticut have been introduced into the state legislature at the request of UE locals in the state. These locals set to work planning visits to the state capital, and other actions aimed at securing passage of the legislation which was introduced by Sen. John J. Murphy.

Des Moines, Ia.—Seventy-seven delegates representing 25,000 members of District 3 of the CIO packinghouse workers unanimously adopted a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire in Korea, and for continuance of negotiations for a permanent armistice.

New York—With 3,000 members present, UE Local 475 adopted a wage program for 1953 featuring a demand for pay hikes of at least 12 1/2% an hour for all shops. Local 475 is an amalgamated union including dozens of shops in New York City.

Pittsburgh—Faced with a growing unemployment wave, which already has claimed 15,000 victims, the United Mine Workers last week launched a drive to make non-union "strip mine" operators live up to standards set for union coal diggers.

**SOLVING PROBLEM.** UE Local 301's executive board has as its basic job making and carrying out decisions on union policy. However, it also serves as an "appeals court" for shop problems. Pictured above is a sub-committee of the board as it met Monday night to handle such a question.



## Local 301 To Discuss UE-GE Reopener Bargaining Monday

With a discussion of current wage reopener negotiations, the drawing of winning tickets in the union giveaway program and action on the appointment of a new assistant business agent all on tap, next Monday's monthly membership meeting promises to be one of the most important UE Local 301 gatherings of the year.

Members who attend the meeting will hear a report on the progress of the UE-GE negotiations from Business Agent Leo Jandreau. Jandreau is a member of the union's national negotiating committee. The members will also have an opportunity to question the business agent on the tactics being used by UE in the current talks.

The question of the new assistant business agent will be raised when the executive board recommends membership approval of its proposal to appoint Roy Schaffer, now recording secretary of the local, to the post.

A highlight of the evening session will be the drawing for 6 valuable prizes in the local's giveaway program. Sheriff Calkins is expected to lend a hand by drawing the winning tickets out of the big revolving basket used by the local for such events. As the former "cop on the corner," Sheriff Calkins is an expert on tickets of all kinds. Scheduled time of the drawing is 9:30 p.m.

Second shift members will gather at 1:00 p.m. Those on 1st and 3rd shifts will meet at 7:30.

## UE Fights for Wage Hike As Company Profits Soar

After an opening negotiations session in which all signs pointed toward a company effort to sit tight on its huge 1952 profits, UE negotiations readied themselves this week for a determined effort to force major economic concessions from GE.

Last week's initial talks were marked by the union's setting forth of its demands, supported by a carefully documented presentation showing that these demands are completely justified by the workers' needs, increased productivity and huge company profits. (A full story on GE 1952 profits appears on page 2.)

UE's proposals featured a demand for a substantial wage increase and one for payment in time or money for the 2 holidays falling on Saturday this year. They also included demands for special wage increases to eliminate geographical differentials, and to end discrimination against women, skilled workers and day workers.

General Electric negotiators were almost completely negative in their replies. However, the union representatives came away with the feeling that it was too early in the bargaining to evaluate the company's position.

The strength of the union in these reopener talks will undoubtedly depend on the support mustered in the shops for the demands, and on the ability of rank-and-file members of other unions in the chain to pressure their leaders into accepting UE's bid for united action against the company. Nothing would be as likely to change the company's tune as a demonstration of unity by all GE workers regardless of union affiliation.

## Propose Schaffer as New Assistant

The executive board voted Monday night to recommend the appointment of Roy Schaffer, Building 60, as an assistant business agent of UE Local 301. The recommendation was made after several months of studying possible candidates for the post following a membership decision to increase the office grievance staff.

If Schaffer is approved by the membership meeting Monday, he will join Serafin Pita and Fred Sheehan, the present assistants to Business Agent Leo Jandreau. Under a proposed new setup, each of the 3 assistants would be assigned to supervise the handling of grievances in a particular section of the Schenectady works. In that way each assistant would be fully familiar with the problems of the more than 5,000 union members in his jurisdiction.

Schaffer has a long record of union activity in UE. He is currently Local 301's recording secretary, and last year he served as vice president of the Schenectady union. On a number of occasions, he has filled in at the hall when one of the assistants has been out on vacation, or when the full-time staff was short-handed for other reasons. His work on the special committee handling discharge cases has also given him valuable experience for the post of assistant business agent.



## GE Profits Soared in '52 As Freeze Held Pay Down

Although the wage freeze held their own 1952 pay boost down to just a little more than 5%, GE workers last year produced profits for the company which were nearly 10% higher than the big 1951 earnings.

GE's net profits and sales were reported by the company last week. The figures were slightly staggering. Company profits after taxes stood at \$151-million. That represented a \$13-million increase over 1951 figures, and gave the company the 2nd highest net earnings in its history. Sales hit an all-time high of more than \$2½-billion.

GE always releases its profits report after knocking off taxes

### Almost All Pennsy Bosses Are Biased

Almost all Pennsylvania employers are guilty of discrimination in hiring according to a report made last week by a special 14-member commission appointed by Gov. John S. Fine.

The report was based on a survey conducted among 1,229 companies in the state. It revealed that 90% of these companies discriminated against one or more groups, with Negro workers by far the most frequent victims. Significant discrimination against Jews, Italians and many other nationality or religious groups was also found.

Discrimination is used by employers to keep wages of all workers down, thereby building up huge profits, and to divide employees who seek better pay and better working conditions.

## UE 301 ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 52: L. R. Jones demands payment for extra work involved in handling materials on pallets not applied to oil tank cover and therefore no included in price. This work was not involved when job was time studied, and previously has been recognized and paid for as extra work.

Bldg. 73: George V. Smith was hired by GE on 7/8/47. An injury received in the plant forced him out of work from 12/28/48 to 9/8/50. After being advised by his doctor that he could do light work, Smith wrote a letter to the company to that effect on 12/30/49. He made application for work on numerous occasions after that, but the company insisted that he was not physically fit for employment. The union demands that GE fully reinstate the service of this worker since it was lost through no fault of his.

Bldg. 84: Class A auto mechan-

and "living expenses." That's about the same as figuring wages after knocking off taxes, food expenditures and rent.

Included in GE's "living expense" category was a cool \$123-million for plant building and expansion. For the most part this money was used to set up GE in low-wage areas of the South, and to knock thousands of northern union workers out of jobs. GE President Ralph Cordiner indicates that the new plant construction would take about \$150-million in 1953.

If figured on the same basis as a worker's wages are figured, GE's profits for 1952 probably amounted close to \$1-billion. Each share of GE common stock brought dividends of \$5.26, which figured on the current price of the stock amounts to about 7½¢ on the investment dollar—pretty good pickings for just sitting back and clipping coupons.

When he released the profit figures, Cordiner was frank to admit that he expected bigger and better things for GE in the next 10 years. He said that the backlog of orders now was higher than at any time in company history, and that GE and the rest of the electrical industry "should be prepared to grow more than twice as fast as the remainder of the economy."

However, he did not indicate that the company had any similar expansion plans for its workers' wages.

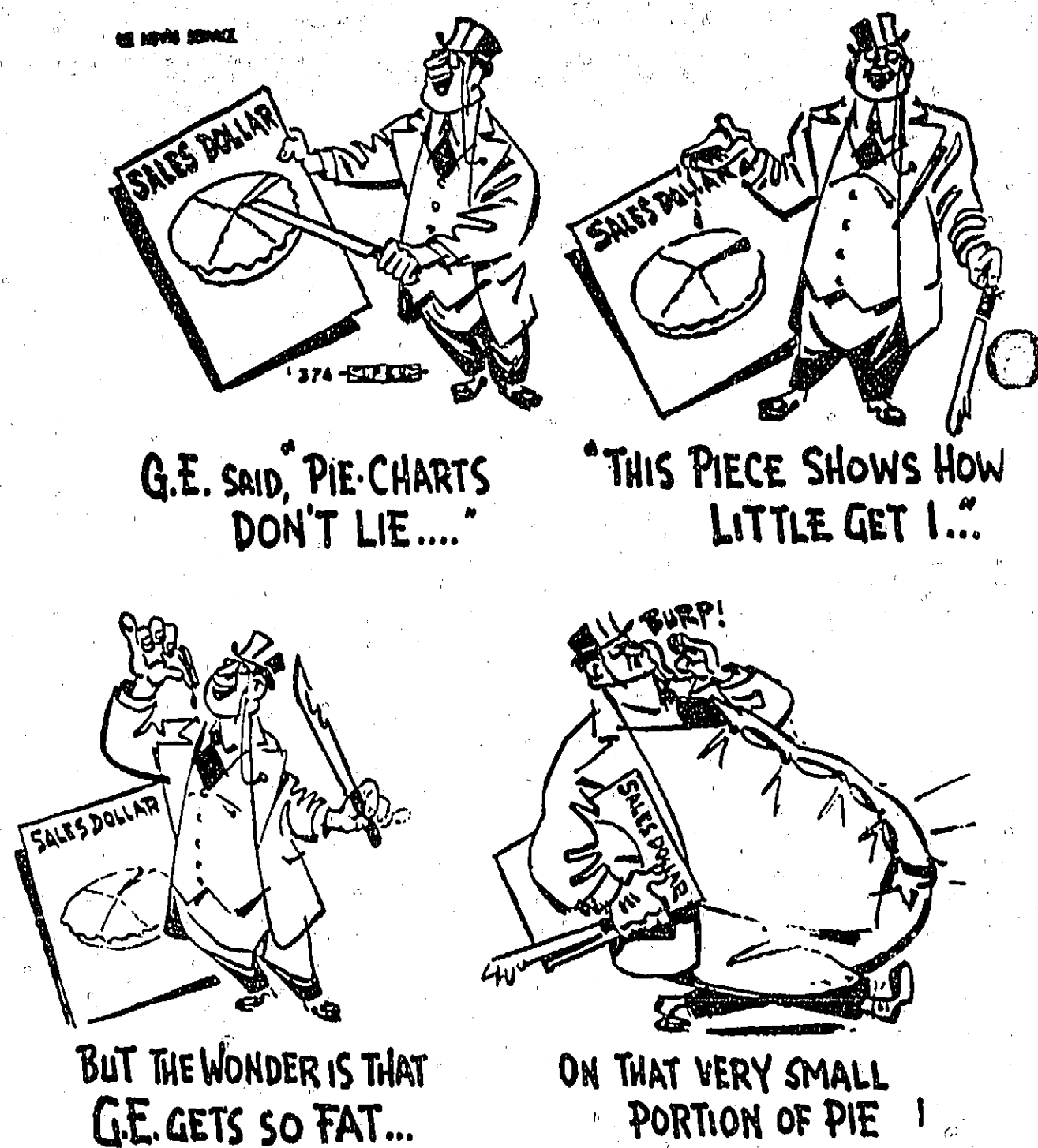
Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

ies are entitled to a 2-step increase in their job rate because of added duties, skills and responsibilities. The union demands that this increase be granted.

Bldg. 273: Welders in A-14 request change over to piece work. This work is on p.w. in other sections, and the union demands that it be put on this basis in the booth. C men in floor assembly group are constantly being used for A duties such as scraping keyways on job 170-2633. The union demands that A men be used for doing this A work.

Bldg. 285: An outside man was given a machine repair job while members of maintenance group under Foreman Korys, who rightfully should have been considered for upgrading, were bypassed. The union demands an end to such discrimination.

Robert Siddon is classified as a checker, with a \$1.68½ job rate,



### See Scheme To Levy Payroll Tax

A political maneuver designed to pave the way for taking another bite out of workers' paychecks was reported to be developing in Albany this week. The bite would be in the form of a 1½% payroll tax.

Because of the bitter opposition of all of organized labor, most upstate Republicans can not support a general payroll tax without committing political suicide. However, a new plan has been concocted by which a tax would be authorized for New York City alone. In this

way, some of the pressure would be taken off the upstate GOP majority.

This maneuver would, in effect, make a similar levy upstate in a matter of time. Once the New York City tax was put into effect, the major legal bars to a tax outside of the city would be cleared up, and individual cities could impose the taxes.

Schenectady officials have already been reported as seriously considering a payroll tax to solve some of their financial problems.

and is performing the full duties of his job. However, Foreman H. Wicks frequently compels him to deliver packages to other areas. This is outside of his classification, and the union demands that management put a stop to this practice.

E. Balmes and M. Frederick are being sent home for lack of work while Foreman Lawrence is farming out to other sections work

Milling machine group under Foreman Mc Conaghy protest the cutting of standard price on pole job 9397205-1, operation 3. It previously paid \$15 per hundred standard and 95¢ setup standard. The method used was the machining of pieces from table location. It was later changed so that vise and vise jaws are employed, and the price was changed to \$8 per hundred. Recently the job was run and the price was further cut to \$4.15 with no change in method. When the group questioned the foreman about the loss of \$10.85 per hundred, they were told that records involved had been lost and could not be found. The union demands restoration of the \$15 price and end to the price cutting practices which violate contract article VI-5d.

Campbell Ave.: Dipping and plating group protest utilization of an operator from an outside group when the regular operator is not asked to come in on Saturdays. The union demands an end to this type of discrimination.

## Decentralization Group Named

A special committee to investigate the problems arising out of company plans to decentralize certain operations, particularly those of maintenance workers, was established by the UE Local 301 executive board Monday night.

Assigned to the committee were Joseph Alois, 273; Charles Ferris, 63; Adam Griffith, 10C; William Mastriani, 73A; and Vincent Palazke, 60.

This group will thoroughly investigate all union angles of the planned changes. In order to do that, they will ask the company for full details on the proposed plans. They will then go about drawing up proposals to make sure that the union representation rights, seniority protections and other contract guarantees will in no way be destroyed or limited by the changes.

Most maintenance workers now operate on a plantwide basis. However, if the new company plans go through, maintenance crews will be assigned to particular divisions wherever possible. This move by GE is in line with policies set forth by top management for the entire chain.

One of the most important jobs of the union committee will be to make sure that wherever necessary, proper upgrades will be made so that all work will be done by correctly classified workers. Plans also will have to be made to make sure that there will be adequate service help in all divisions to prevent any speedup.

The committee will get down to work as soon as it can complete the task of organizing itself. It will then make periodic reports to the board on any progress it makes in dealing with the problem. These reports will be passed on to the membership and to the shop stewards.

### OK 2 Appointments

Local 301's executive board confirmed the appointment of 2 union officers to the leadership of civic organizations Monday.

Unanimous approval was given to the naming of President James Cognetta as a member of the executive board of the Schenectady Community Chest. A similar OK was given to the appointment of Treasurer Joseph Whitbeck as a member of the special mayor's committee to find new housing for Negro and white families displaced by the construction of a slum clearance project east of City Hall.

### Protest Bus Service

More than 200 Scotia residents have signed a petition protesting against inadequate bus service in their area. The petition was launched and circulated by UE Local 301 member Don Dietz, Bldg. 273.

Dietz started the petition campaign after many of his fellow workers expressed their dissatisfaction with the bus service between downtown Schenectady and Wyatt's Crossing in Glenville. The line is operated by the George Welcome Co.

A particular source of dissatisfaction was the complete lack of evening or Sunday service. This leaves many 2nd shift workers who depend on the line to get them into the GE works stranded. It also makes it difficult for many families to get to church on Sunday.

The petition has already resulted in the arrangement of an appointment with Mayor Turnbull of Scotia to discuss the situation.

### Vote Help to Red Cross, Heart Fund

UE Local 301's executive board voted Monday night to make contributions to two community organizations and to investigate the possibility of aiding a 3rd group.

The contributions were made to the Red Cross and to the American Heart Association. The Red Cross donation was for \$100, and that of the heart fund was \$50.

A committee was set up to look into the functioning of the Sight Conservation Society, an organization established to do research into eye ailments and to inform the public on methods of saving eyesight.

## Wausau Lockout Passes Year Mark



More than 750 UE members last week completed a full year on the picket lines set up after the Marathon Electric Co., in Wausau, Wis., locked them out in an effort to break their union.

One of the most important reasons for the ability of the union to maintain their long fight has been the complete unity of the area labor movement behind the UE local. Pictured above is a sign carried on the line which illustrates that unity.

UE Local 301 has made a number of contributions to the strikers, including a \$100 donation voted by the executive board Monday.

## Board Adopts Plan To Cut Union's Tab on Lost Time

Introduction of a new plan to reduce union lost time expenses was approved this week by the UE Local 301 executive board. The plan will be submitted to the membership for action at Monday's meeting.

### Accord Ends Jim Crow Hiring in Breweries

A major victory against discrimination in hiring was won in New York City last week when the CIO brewery workers and 7 big beer bottling companies agreed on a plan to hire at least 100 Negro workers in the industry. The pact sounded the death knell for the almost 100% lily-white policies pursued by the breweries.

Leading the fight for fair employment practices in the industry has been the National Urban League. A survey conducted by this organization in 1950 revealed that no Negro workers were employed in New York City breweries, which have about 10,000 men and women on their payrolls. The League then began a fight to win the union over to a fair employment practices policy.

At first, this campaign made slow progress and only a handful of Negro workers won steady employment in the breweries. However, the union finally recognized that discrimination against Negroes was costing all workers thousands of dollars, and it agreed to open its hiring halls to Negro job applicants.

The new arrangement has a two-fold purpose—to make sure that no unnecessary lost time is charged to the union; and to guarantee that the efficiency of the local's grievance machinery is not impaired.

One of the main features of the new idea is the introduction of a new union lost time voucher. This voucher has 2 features not found on the one now in use. One is a requirement that stewards fill in the names of all workers they represent who are involved in time studies, and the other is provision of space to enable these workers to sign the vouchers before they are submitted for payment.

Another important change is the reduction from 3 hours to 1½ hours of the amount of time that a steward can turn in on any one case without securing the signed approval of his or her executive board member.

This is intended to increase the responsibility of board members in making sure that lost time is held to a minimum. It also will serve to prevent stewards from turning in lost time to the union when they are entitled to get paid for this time by the company.

Under the UE-GE contract, the company is required to pay up to 6 hours a month to stewards handling grievances in the shop. Too often in the past, committee men and women have failed to take full advantage of this provision won through negotiations.

Another important feature of the new system would be tighter enforcement of the rule that no steward or board member is to come to the hall on lost time without prior agreement by the business office.

### Arrange TV Discount

UE Local 301 members will be eligible to receive special discounts on television sets, parts and repairs under a new plan approved Monday by the executive board.

The plan, offered by De Cesare Bros., whose shop is located at 666 Crane St., provides a 15% discount on all radio and TV tubes, a 10% cut on new TV sets and a special \$3.00 fee on home service calls. Any union member can get the discount by showing his UE membership card.

The De Cesare store deals in R.C.A., Admiral, Capchert and Emerson sets. However, the firm sells parts and does repair work on all makes. The store's telephone number is 7-0935.